



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3

Meeting Date: May 19, 2014
Meeting Location: Joy Rose Center
1000 W. Hively Ave.
Elkhart, IN

Council Members Present: Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko DCS; Bill Horton, St. Joseph County DCS, Pam Whisman, Marshall County DCS.

Council Members Absent: Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheilbush; Janet Bohner, Elkhart Probation; Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County; Teresa Zornig, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS.

Others In Attendance: Joni Tusing, DCS; Rachel Tobin-Smith, SCAN; Janet Rathberger, DCS; Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator; Kelly Hunkler, Gibault; Libby Martin, LSSI; Leah Plank, CAPS; Mike Marchi; Memorial Epworth Center; Debbie Branfield, Crossroad; Barb Vernon, CAPS; Sean McCrindle, Bashor; P. Hamilton, SCAN; Melissa McWilliams, Lifeline; Jeff Bedree, DCS.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Jamie Pippin.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 4-21-14 reviewed. Erin Shidler motioned approval of the minutes. Michael Carroll seconded. Vote taken. All in favor. 0 Opposed. Motion carried.
3. Community Partners Update. Rachel Tobin-Smith for Community Partners reported on April dollars. Should be at 83% currently at 82.77%, we are on track. Steady uptake from January. Targeted \$157,000 a month for the next two months and monitoring very carefully. Rachel asked providers to make sure data entry is correct. Looking to enroll 50 in May with no extensions. 75 enrolled in April. Referrals coming in well, 932 families served to date.

Program outcomes; Initial Contacts within 5 Days improved since January. The bad weather in January drove numbers down. Engagement 57%, Rachel reminded members that these are voluntary services. Family Termination 100%, we are keeping up with the paperwork.

Local Prevention Dollars at 83.33% spent with a remaining balance of \$314,240. If a provider has not spent allotted funds monies may be moved to other providers in need of cash.

“Gear Up” RFP online. There is a question and answer period, then scoring is performed with the best scores selected. This is just like the State of Indiana RFP process. More information is available at: www.scaninc.org. Outreach was request from the council to include NICU Social Workers, Emergency Room/Hospital staff, WIC, and pre-natal clinics. Rachel informed council that a brochure will also be

created. Gear Up is a short-term program and participants should be referred to Community Partners for an additional 90 days of services if necessary.

Bill Horton questioned SCAN and DCS involvement on an IA case. If there is an active case in your database we cannot be involved. Jamie Pippin clarified that any case type open in the database is consider active. Once the case is closed they can be referred. You can target that referral to come in on the day of closure. They can also come to the CFTM meeting if available. This has to do with the money sources, if it is in your system you should be using the dollars that Joni reports on. Close it out and refer to us. SCAN would be your least complicated referral source. FCMs will receive a referral notice within two weeks; FCMs will need to sign a release form.

4. Service Update. Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator, FCT referrals are up with St. Joseph County leading as a referral source, Elkhart County has 2 referrals and Kosciusko County has 1. Summer RFPs opening June 1st, this is a regional need based opening.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager, reported total expenditures for April are 2.9 million. Child Welfare is \$1,494,437 and Probation \$1,407,171. Goal is 83% YTD we are currently at 75%. Increases seen in foster care, preservation services, and care of wards in institutions.

6. County Updates.

Elkhart – Tony Sommer, Director, working with the number of reports coming in. Hosted the South Bend Hotline staff during the power outage in South Bend. Interviewing BSW interns. Assessment Supervisor Kristin Ford is back from maternity leave.

Kosciusko – Erin Shidler, Director, 10 FCMs in Kosciusko County with the new hire graduating tomorrow. Working on archive project.

Marshall – Michael Carroll, Director, reported at full staff, new FCM has started cohort training. Michael will be interviewing on radio station WTCA on the last Friday of the month about the need for foster parents in Marshall County.

St. Joseph – William Horton, Supervisor, reported on the power outage Friday. Staff pulled together, and there were no lapses in service. Roofsit coming up. A few new workers in cohort training, one transfer is coming in.

Regional – Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager, QSR last week and they will report at the next Regional Service Council meeting. Preliminary results are that we did well. Some areas we need to work on. Jamie reported attending the foster parent banquets and meeting with all the foster parents to let them know how much we appreciate them. More positions may be coming out; Jamie is working on one more supervisory position for Kosciusko County. Jamie asked council if they felt it necessary to meet monthly and suggested a quarterly meeting instead. Discussion tabled, next month we will vote on it.

Erin Shidler motioned to adjourn. Tony Sommer seconded. Meeting adjourned 10:37 a.m.

Next RSC Meeting – Monday, June 16, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Juvenile Justice Center, 1000 S Michigan St, South Bend, IN